

INTRODUCTION

This publication by the Arizona Department of Health Services, ***Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 1999***, is the 17th annual update of information on the health status of Arizona residents and vital statistics. The report consists of 228 tables, 60 graphs, 48 thematic maps and accompanying text. It highlights both the statewide trends and patterns in the general population, as well as inequalities in the health status among ethnic groups and Arizona's counties.

The *Index to Tables* in this report contains approximately 450 entries referring to specific health conditions, risk factors, diseases, and causes of death.

The report includes statistics on pregnancies, births, abortions, stillbirths, reportable diseases, deaths, marriages, divorces, and population of the state. The data for 1999 are placed in a temporal context by comparison with the data for the preceding years.

The information in this volume consists of frequencies and rates of vital events for the State's residents (except as noted).

The report is organized into 3 major parts, reflecting differences in geographic coverage. Part I is concerned with **statewide** statistics. Part II presents **county-level**

information. Part III is focused on **community-level** data. Each part is further divided into sections on reproductive and perinatal health, mortality, and the 1999 status on year 2000 health objectives.

Not all health statistics are available on a sub-county level. Hence, information about pregnancies, stillbirths, induced terminations of pregnancy (abortions), reportable diseases, marriages and marriage dissolutions is given only for the State and by county.

Part I of the report has four chapters. The first chapter deals with *reproductive and perinatal health*, i.e., characteristics of women who became pregnant, factors related to the course of their pregnancies, and the status of pregnancy outcomes. Much of these data are given for each year from 1989 to 1999. The natality section of this report is concerned with fertility and birth rates, the general health of newborns as indexed by birthweight and prematurity, and selected demographic and prenatal care characteristics of the women giving birth.

The second chapter is focused on *trends and patterns in mortality*. It compares the annual age-adjusted profile of leading causes of death between Arizona and United States residents from 1989 to 1999. Gender,

urban/rural, and ethnic differences are also examined for Arizona. The five leading causes of death are discussed for infants (<1 year), children (1-14 years), adolescents (15-19 years), young adults (20-44 years), middle-aged adults (45-64 years) and the elderly (65 or more years). For each age group, cause-specific mortality is compared between urban (i.e. Maricopa, Pima, Pinal and Yuma counties) and rural (all other counties) regions and between genders. Urban and rural regions are compared by gender-specific total mortality. The chapter on mortality concludes with an examination of patterns of premature mortality by gender and ethnic group.

Morbidity, levels of disease in the population, is the topic of the third chapter. The presentation is limited to data on diseases reported for the entire population of the State by statutory mandate.

Chapter four focuses on Arizona's standing in 1999 with respect to **Arizona 2000*** and selected major national health objectives for the year 2000. The health indicators are organized around five subject areas: maternal and infant health, reduction of sexually transmitted and vaccine preventable diseases, prevention of injuries, age-related objectives and mortality from chronic diseases.

***Arizona 2000 - Plan for a Healthy Tomorrow.** Arizona Department of Health Services. November 1993.

Part II and Part III contain information with no accompanying narrative. In Part II, **The Counties**, tables, figures, and maps present the data on 1) trends and patterns in health status and vital statistics by county of residence, 2) county profiles on indicators for assessing health status and monitoring progress toward Arizona and national year 2000 objectives, 3) geographic patterns in births, deaths and reportable diseases, and 4) selected historical vital events by year and county in the State.

Part III, **The Communities**, provides readers with selected community-level data on live births and deaths in Arizona in 1999.

To use **Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 1999** effectively, the reader should become familiar with *Technical Notes* at the end (p. 435) of the report. They provide definitions of terms used in the report, as well as information about the sources of data.

In addition to bound form, the electronic version of **Arizona Health Status and Vital Statistics 1999** is available on the World Wide Web at

<http://www.hs.state.az.us/plan/ohpes.htm>

Some of the basic findings for the State are presented on the following page.